



Louisville Metro Tree Advisory Commission

March 26, 2013

5:00 PM

Air Pollution Control District Boardroom

Meeting Minutes

I. Welcome and Announcements

Commission Co-chair Henry Heuser, Jr. welcomed Louisville Metro Tree Advisory Commission (hereinafter, "Commission" or "LMTAC") members and guests. The following Commissioners were present: Henry Heuser, Jr. (Co-Chair), Katy Schneider (Co-Chair), Allen Steinbock (Secretary/Treasurer), Cheri Bryant-Hamilton, Todd Eberle, Robert Eberenz, Maria Koetter, Monica Orr, and as well as ex-officio members Mesude Duyar, Michelle King, Sherie Long, Mark White.

II. Approval of Minutes

Henry called for acceptance of the minutes. Commissioner Monica Orr moved for approval of the minutes. Minutes of the February 26, 2013 were approved unanimously.

III. Old Business

a. Report on non-profit organization status – Henry Heuser, Jr.

Henry briefly mentioned how difficult it had proved to be to get a 501(c)(3) status for Commission's Tree Fund, since the Commission is an executive advisory commission, not an incorporated entity.

b. Report on recommended revisions to Chapter 10 of Part 1 of the Land Use Development Code – Michelle King

Ex-officio Commissioner and APCD Supervisor Michelle King briefly discussed the Policy Committee's work as they have taken the Commission's recommended revisions to Chapter 10 Part 1 of the Land Development Code (LDC) to the LDC Improvement Committee's Chapter 10 subcommittee. Michelle reported that there has been a lot of discussion in the Chapter 10 subcommittee about the Commission's recommendations, including discussion about increased canopy requirements in all land use types, encouraging preservation of existing canopy, and the availability of waivers of the canopy requirements, particularly whether they are ever necessary given the alternatives available for compliance. Some of the Commission recommendations were non-controversial, while others had seen some resistance within the LDC Improvement subcommittee. However, Michelle noted that the entire process has been a learning process for all

and that the group was looking for areas of agreement. Michelle reported that at the next subcommittee meeting the group will begin reviewing recommended revisions to the same section as proposed by members of the residential and commercial development community.

Ex-officio Commissioner and Planning and Design landscape architect Sherie Long observed that attendance at the LDC subcommittee meetings has been dominated more by development interests than the community tree canopy interests. She encouraged people in the room to attend the meetings. The next meeting will be Monday, April 1st, 3:00pm-4:30pm. Henry asked where the meeting would be. Sherie said it is on the first floor of the 444 S. Fifth Street building.

Audience member Cory Petry from Limbwalker Tree Service and a member of the Commission's Policy Committee, spoke up to second what Michelle and Sherie had said. Michelle noted how many Policy Committee members were in the room and the dedication they have shown to the committee's work.

Another member of the committee, Cassandra Cullen, said that developers were saying that infill development would be difficult with the tree requirements, but she noted that infill areas are often where trees are needed the most. Sherie said that the code doesn't seem to reflect the desire to increase both tree canopy *and* density simultaneously. Sherie said that we could decrease the number of parking spaces required and increase the number of trees, which would mean no loss of building size or density.

Commissioner and Louisville Metro Councilwoman Cheri Bryant-Hamilton asked if there was any Metro Council representation at these subcommittee meetings. Sherie said no. Michelle and Sherie discussed whether there was any Council representation on the larger LDC Improvement Committee. They agreed that Councilman James Peden was as well as Councilman Jim King.

c. Recent Presentations

i. The Glenview Garden Club – Katy Schneider

Katy mentioned that she had spoken to the Glenview Garden Club and that they were very interested in the work of the Commission.

ii. The Green Convene – Michelle King

Michelle said she had spoken to the Green Convene. She said they're very interested in being active participants in Metro Government sustainability functions, including the work of the Commission. She said they gave some good feedback about how to reach out to different parts of the community.

ii. Neighborhood Institute – Monica Orr

Monica Orr said she had spoken to the Neighborhood Institute, where community activists learn how to get involved in their neighborhoods. Monica said she tried to get them fired up for doing tree surveys and other work related to the preservation and growth of Louisville's tree canopy.

IV. New Business

a. Preparing information requests for Vanessa Burns, Director of Public Works and Assets, on capacity to support tree planting and maintenance – Katy Schneider

Katy said that as first discussed at the February meeting the Commission needed to get Vanessa Burns, the director of Louisville Metro Public Works and Assets ("Public Works"), to talk about how

to keep trees watered during the drought. Cherie Bryant-Hamilton agreed that this was an important discussion to have.

Katy asked Ex-officio Commissioner and City Arborist Mark White if there was a way to project how much it would cost to water the trees. Mark said the water bags were about \$20 each, and it was just a matter of how many were needed. Mark said he ordered a gator bag for everything planted; then it was just a matter of watering. Public Works has been watering new planting for at least one year, though Mark is trying to make sure new trees are watered for two years. He's also trying to re-use the gator bags.

Henry asked if one truck with a water tank was enough. Mark said he was trying to get another poly-tank. Ex-officio commissioner and Metro Parks Administrator Mesude Duyar said Metro Parks was having a hard time finding enough trucks to do the maintenance and that Public Works did not have anything available. Henry asked how much the tanks would cost. Mark said \$600. Henry asked if the director of Public Works would be the person to get in touch with. It was agreed generally that she would be. Mesude said she would like to learn more about how Public Works is structured when Burns comes to speak to the Commission.

Monica asked if we could ask Vanessa Burns about the looming problem of many dead ash trees killed by the emerald ash borer. Katy added it to the list.

Katy asked if there was anything else to ask Burns. Sherie asked whether we could get any part-time staff over the summer to help with tree maintenance. Mark said he hadn't previously had any problems getting enough people from Public Works to do the watering, but that if he asked for two or three people for two or three months it might impinge on the Public Works department's ability to fill potholes and other similar ongoing maintenance needs.

Cory Petry asked Mark how often they watered trees. Mark said the trees were watered once a week starting in June, depending on weather.

Henry clarified with Mark that they were looking for one more big truck to hold an 800-gallon tank, which would allow the staff to stay out all day watering, thus saving a lot of time. Robert Eberenz asked where the water comes from. Mark said the hydrant. Robert asked if the city paid for that water, and Mark answered that the city does not pay for water.

b. Presentation to the Sustainability Committee of the Louisville Metro Council – Katy Schneider

Katy said she will be a briefing of the Metro Council Sustainability Committee at 3:00pm on Thursday, April 2nd, at City Hall. She asked for people to come, since the Council would want different perspectives. Katy said she would do a PowerPoint presentation on the Tree Advisory Commission and also brief the councilmembers on the LDC developments, since Metro Council is not necessarily aware of what the Commission is doing.

V. Committee Reports

Henry asked if there were any other committee reports.

a. Projects and Maintenance Committee

Committee co-chair Mike Hayman gave a report on the trees the Committee had planted since the last Commission meeting. Mike reported that trees had been planted around Atherton High School,

on Dundee Road, which raised its own money, five trees in Irish Hill, and some in Louisville Metro Councilwoman Attica Scott's district for the fall.

Mike said the small trees that were authorized a few months ago will go to the Auburndale neighborhood. Mike also made a contact in Portland who really wants trees, possibly where a bus turnaround currently exists (the turnaround would be removed and turned into green space). He said they may get some MSD money, and a church that may chip in. His goal was to have the trees by Christmas 2014.

b. Urban Design Studio guests

Henry recognized Patrick Piuma and Pat Smith from the Urban Design Studio (UDS). Patrick said that Pat had used aerial photographs and plotted the trees downtown on a map. They have organized an event as part of the Mayor's Day of Service week to ask volunteers to participate in an effort to gather information about each of those plotted trees. The event will be held at the UDS on April 14th at 11:30am. Volunteers will be grouped to put those with more tree knowledge together with those with less. Patrick said that people if people couldn't make the Sunday event that they could go out anytime during that week as long as they had the results in by Sunday the 14th. Katy asked how many people Patrick was hoping for. Patrick said at least 10 people with tree knowledge and 20 people with just general knowledge. Henry asked how Patrick was going to get the word out. Patrick said he would send it to the 2,500 people on the Sustainable Cities list.

Pat said it would be great to take the tree data available and use some open source software to start building a better data set of the urban forest in Louisville. Pat said they knew where the trees were in the winter of 2011, but they needed to get information on the attributes of each tree in present day and put it in GIS.

Henry asked if Vanessa Burns could tell the Commission what sidewalks could be cut open to plant trees. Sherie long said that Public Works and Assets Executive Administrator Dirk Gowin would be a better source for that information. Henry said that would be good to know for businesses who wanted to donate for downtown planting.

Technical Advisory Committee co-chair John Hamilton was recognized and said that the Commission should ask Burns how to maintain the information the Commission gathers so that it doesn't become useless. Michelle asked Mesude if that would be similar to what they use at Metro Parks. Mesude said yes and added that Metro Parks' software allows them to keep track of maintenance done that day.

VI. Monthly Tree Facts—Mike Hayman

Katy announced that Mike Hayman, Co-chair of the projects and Maintenance Committee, had suggested that the Commission be presented with a monthly tree fact at each meeting in order to continue to broaden their knowledge of trees and issues concerning them. Katy asked Mike to present this month's fact. Mike gave a short synopsis of an article written by Commissioner and Projects and Maintenance Committee co-chair Paul Capiello for the *Courier-Journal* on "mulch volcanoes," or the practice of mounding mulch around the base of a tree. Mike said the rule is: no more than 2-inches of mulch and nothing touching the trunk. There was a brief discussion on how the practice of creating these mulch volcanoes got started. Cory Petry surmised that it was just easier to throw mulch on the tree rather than to take the time to do it properly. This kind of incorrect "common knowledge" is prevalent in tree maintenance practices. Mark White gave an example saying that he'd seen a contractor that week who was very upset when Mark told him he

was improperly trimming a tree. The contractor said he'd been doing it that way for 40 years. Cory suggested one way to change this would be an ordinance to define best management practices on trimming trees and mulching trees.

There was a discussion about how to get the word out that mulch volcanoes are a bad practice.

VII. Other Announcements

Mesude announced that Metro Parks will have a Louisville Arbor Day Festival on April 12th at Cherokee Park and encouraged Commissioners to attend. Mesude noted that the event is open to all who come, but it won't be announced to the public out of concern for the safety of the children in attendance from local schools.

Katy made an announcement about the expiration of the terms of certain commissioners: John Potter, Wanda Baker, and Carrie Taylor-Anthony, plus the seat for State Senate District 10, which has been tried by two different people who ended up not completing their terms. Katy asked for recommendations for those four seats, which include a representative from State Senate Districts 10 and 33, and two at-large representatives. Mark suggested Herb Fink in Old Louisville. Katy said she would email everyone and asked for Commissioners to encourage applications. She added that Paul Capiello and Scott Hannah have decided to stay on for additional terms and that Stephen Cotton, representing State Senate District 37, was still undecided at that time.

Patrick Piuma asked for suggestions on how to get volunteers for the downtown inventory and received several suggestions from Commission members and the audience.

VIII. Adjourn

Henry asked for anything else. Michelle stated that planning was underway for the next meeting, to be held at Whitehall to mark the Commission's first year of service. Henry adjourned the meeting.